



SPECIAL
PROGRAMMES
AND PROJECTS

Stepping Forward with Commitment for Hong Kong



To celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Establishment of HKSAR, the Federation organised a programme entitled, "Stepping Forward with Commitment to Hong Kong". The purpose was to replenish the city's store of positive energy by giving a boost to young people's commitment to serve Hong Kong. This was done by focusing on community services, economic development and understanding the opportunities in the Greater Bay Area (GBA). More than 20,000 young people are expected to participate in volunteering, competitions, policy advocacy, internship and other educational activities.

To boost community services, young people from the Federation's NEIGHBOURHOOD First Programme were mobilised to design their ideal community. Supported by the Chan Cheung Mun Chung Charitable Fund, **NEIGHBOURHOOD First - Empathetic Community Project** trained ten youth teams to conduct a needs assessment and build prototypes,

which were then underwent usability testing to uncover new ways to meet the community's needs.

To enhance economic development, professional youth were engaged to provide advice, exchange views, offer practical solutions, demonstrate professionalism and enrich the local economy in five areas: financial innovation, elderly care, housing, sustainable development and culture and creativity. Their exchange with government officials and policymakers were presented through an M21 online production, **With All Our Might**.

To help adapt the ideas of young people to improve social issues, **Inno Impact 2022** received 130 proposals that provided social solutions through technology and creative business models. Five winning innovative plans, covering upcycling clothes, natural home cleaning products, stroke rehabilitation medical robots, renewable energy systems, and 3D virtual musicians, were selected and were each awarded a prize of HK\$200,000 and other entrepreneurial support.

To also assist young people in better understanding the opportunities in the GBA, study programmes and internships were provided. Sponsored by the Tin Ka Ping Foundation, the **GBA Project Learning Competition** attracted nearly 200 participants to develop ideas to promote sports development and a greener GBA.



Youth High Speed Rail

Special Programmes and Projects



Since the reopening of the border between mainland China and Hong Kong, the Federation, in collaboration with The Dragon Foundation, led a special Youth High Speed Rail tour to Guangzhou and Foshan. With full support from the MTR Corporation, the Department of Youth Affairs of the Liaison Office of the Central Government in Hong Kong, the Guangdong Overseas Friendship Association and the Guangdong Youth Federation, this trip was the first time since the pandemic that such a large delegation had crossed the border.

The journey to Guangzhou took an hour and the 500 young people, from students to those who were working, were accompanied by the President of the Federation, Mr Kenneth Chen Wai-on, SBS and Mr Lester Garson Huang, SBS, JP, Chairman of The Dragon Foundation.

During the two-day expedition, participants had the opportunity to learn about the latest advancements in science and technology in the Greater Bay Area and explore opportunities for their own professional and educational development. They also visited notable locations, such as CAS Space (Guangzhou Zhongke Aerospace Exploration Technology Co., Ltd.) and the Guangzhou Toyota Motor Co., Ltd, while

also seeing the latest in AI technology and renewable energy. They were able to enjoy martial arts and visit cultural spots as they learnt more Chinese history and strengthened their own national identity.

Distinguished guests attended the Commissioning Ceremony and cheered for the youth delegates. The guests included the Hon Lam Sai-hung, GBS, JP, Secretary for Transport and Logistics; the Hon Alice Mak Mei-kuen, SBS, JP, Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs; and Mr Song Lai, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Youth Affairs of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.



Strive and Rise Programme

The Strive and Rise Programme is a project led by the Chief Secretary for Administration and an inter-department Task Force through tripartite collaboration between the Government, the business sector and the community. The purpose is to broaden the horizons of junior form students from underprivileged families by providing them with opportunities for upward mobility. The Federation was tasked to serve as the Central Coordinator for organising orientations and trainings for mentors, mentees and parents, as well as collaborating with six district organisers to ensure the smooth operation of the Programme.



Over 2,800 students were matched with mentors and trainings included those on life planning, financial planning and capacity building. This helped mentees to set personal development goals, while cultivating financial literacy and strengthening their self-esteem.



Throughout the year, mentors and mentees got together in different face-to-face sessions and group activities. They were also given a start-up sum of HK\$5,000 to spend with the guidance of their mentors in achieving a personal development plan. On completion of the Programme, a further HK\$5,000 scholarship will be given to all mentees to apply their financial plans.



NEIGHBOURHOOD First

Special Programmes and Projects

NEIGHBOURHOOD First is a community building project which incorporates leadership training, volunteer services, online connectivity and district collaboration. Young people formed over 100 NEIGHBOURHOOD Teams and carried out various activities over the year.

NEIGHBOURHOOD First Festival

NEIGHBOURHOOD First was launched in 2011. To record its various milestones in engaging youth in community work, the NEIGHBOURHOOD First Festival was officiated by Mr Clarence Leung Wang-ching, BBS, JP, Under Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs. Also present were representatives from eight district councils, strategic partners and 300 youth volunteers to celebrate remarkable achievements of the NEIGHBOURHOOD First campaign.

During the past 12 years, 3,000 youth volunteers have built caring and harmonious neighbourhoods, by contacting 10,000 households each year. Over this period, the **NEIGHBOURHOOD First Rice Giving Scheme** has distributed 3 million kilograms of rice. In order to serve designated target people, there are ten service plans carried out annually. During the pandemic, 170,000 neighbours were contacted directly by the Youth NEIGHBOURHOOD Teams, so as to better understand social needs.



NEIGHBOURHOOD First · uKitchen

Young volunteers learnt about healthy diets and cooking methods from nutritionists. They collected leftover vegetables from market stalls, distributed them to families in need and talked to them about healthy eating. Over 800 people benefited from this Programme.

NEIGHBOURHOOD First Round Table Committee

NEIGHBOURHOOD First Round Table Committee, composed of senior NEIGHBOURHOOD Team members, began a new initiative, the **NEIGHBOURHOOD Cup**, which brings together NEIGHBOURHOOD First members from different areas to compete in a friendly competition. The third Round Table Committee started its tenure in September 2023.

NEIGHBOURHOOD First Reunion Lunch

The annual NEIGHBOURHOOD First Reunion Lunch was held in early 2023 to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Because of continuing pandemic concerns, 2,180 "Love Packages" containing the "Poon Choi" communal dish was prepared and distributed to families and elderly who had difficulty going out.

NEIGHBOURHOOD First Rice Giving Scheme

Since 2010, The Au Bak Ling Charity Trust has supported the NEIGHBOURHOOD First Teams to hand out rice packages to underprivileged families and singletons. More than 4,500 households benefit every month.



China Week

Since 2011, the Federation has organised *China Week* annually, presenting young people with the opportunity to see how their Chinese identity fits into a global context.

In 2022, the theme was "Heaven and Man: Experience the Sustainable Development of the Country through Daily Life". Through the week, there were a wide range of online and offline activities, including special lectures on daily life sustainable practices, experiential workshops, a nature summer camp, and a twelve-style *Yijin Jing* workshop. There was also a "Green Forest Heroes" Community Leader Task Competition. The experiential learnings allowed participants to explore various aspects of sustainable development, including clothing, food, housing, and transportation, while they also gained a deeper understanding of the country's history, culture and the relationship with contemporary context.

Professor the Hon Lau Chi-pang, BBS, JP, Legislative Council Member, was invited as the Guest of Honour to kick off the event.





The HKFYG Youth Hostel PH2, is the city's first all-purpose accommodation for working young people under the Government supported Youth Hostel Scheme. PH2, located in Tai Po, provides 76 single units and two double/disabled units. It also provides tenants the venue to build up their social networks, implement their career trajectories and develop their financial plans.

Since it began operation, PH2 has actively engaged tenants to participate in voluntary work and connect with the community. Some examples include the partnership between PH2 tenants and Youth S.P.O.Ts members to create an environmentally friendly Christmas tree together to share happiness with the community. A voluntary tutor group was also formed to provide homework guidance for children from disadvantaged families and shared refrigerators were set up for those in need. Furthermore, PH2 arranged different social

gatherings, outdoor activities and interest classes for tenants, opening their eyes to communal living while also learning new skills. Over 100 programme sessions were offered throughout the year with over 90% of residents participating.



WL Residence

Since its establishment in August 2012, the WL Residence (WLR) supports young people aged between 18 and 24 years old who are struggling or need temporary transitional housing for six months. The Residence also provides life planning guidance, career skills training and support.

Last year, WLR served 59 young people. Some residents were able to repair relationships with their families and return home, while others were able to move on to on-campus housing or public housing. Through independent living skills training, they strengthened their self-confidence, self-care and coping abilities, and were able to benefit from communal living to live confidently by themselves afterwards.

With support from the Community Chest, WLR was able to carry out timely building repairs and maintenance to improve environmental hygiene and enhance the quality of life for residents.



Hub for the Future

Special Programmes and Projects



During the second-year's collaboration between HKFYG and HSBC in running the "Hub for the Future", the HSBC Scholars were supported to enhance their capabilities and competencies through social innovation initiatives, a mentorship programme, the Volunteering Challenge and networking events.

Hub for the Future in-Action Programme helps young talents to channel ideas into meaningful and impactful projects to actualise their dreams of a better future. Each selected group was given a project execution grant of up to HK\$100,000. Through the mentorship programme, students will be able to facilitate their personal, academic, and professional development through a robust network of role models and prominent leaders from different disciplines. 138 Scholars were matched with 60 mentors from business and community streams under the mentorship programme for 2022-23. The Volunteering Challenge encouraged participants to dedicate themselves to voluntary services, such as acting as tour guides for youth introducing them to the Hong Kong Rugby Sevens. The networking events were opportunities for attendees and experienced alumni to engage with one another and build valuable connections. Through activities, like Talent Mixer Day and Youth High Speed Rail, scholars gained exposure, made new connections in different industries and expanded their networks.



The Dragon Foundation

Since 2000, The Dragon Foundation has been dedicated to bringing together Chinese youth from all over the world, fostering their sense of identity, building networks, and providing opportunities for their development. To date, the Foundation has connected young people from 41 countries or regions through various leadership training programmes. The Foundation is managed by a Board of Directors, with the Secretariat support provided by the Federation. Within the year, the Foundation carried out the following major activities:

Youth High Speed Rail Trip 2023

As cross-border travel resumed between mainland China and Hong Kong, the Foundation and the Federation organised the "Youth High Speed Rail Trip 2023". The event led 500 Hong Kong young people on a two-day, one-night trip to the Greater Bay Area, broadening their horizons, as they experienced transportation convenience brought by the opening of the high-speed rail.



Dragon Dance – Youth Co-create Action

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, The Dragon Foundation organised the "Dragon Dance – Youth Co-create Action". The youth co-creation artwork, based on an original flying dragon painting by the renowned ink painter, Mr Lee Chi-ching, brought together the works of 10,000 Chinese youth from Hong Kong and overseas to create an animation and a mosaic conveying wishes and blessings. The Hon Cheuk Wing-hing, GBS, JP, Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration, received the co-creation at the Presentation Ceremony.



Special Programmes and Projects

Chinese Culture and Heritage Events

To promote Chinese culture, the Foundation continued to launch a series of events. This included the **Qi Huang Heroes – Chinese Medicine Mobile Game Design Course and Proposal Competition**, which was funded by the Greater Bay Area Homeland Youth Community Foundation. Participants used mobile game designs as a medium to learn basic knowledge of Chinese medicine. Supported by The Board of Management of the Chinese Permanent Cemeteries, the Foundation also held the **Culture Transmitter – Life Education Programme** which used experiential activities to introduce Chinese philosophy and encouraged young people to face life positively.



and local cultural organisations to organise the **Ming Wah Dah Ha Documentary Project** and the **Kwun Tong Garden Estate Documentary Project** community recording projects, encouraging local young people to record Hong Kong's history and development through people, architecture, and community participation.

DragoNation

DragoNation is the alumni organisation of The Dragon Foundation and was established in 2008. The annual **DragoNation Day** gathered over 100 members from Hong Kong and around the world to talk about development issues under the theme of "The Power of Innovation: Building Sustainable Ventures for Social Impact".

Providing Opportunities to Serve the Community

During the pandemic, the Foundation received funding from The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust's COVID-19 Emergency Fund and launched the **Dragon Care Action** from April to June 2022. Alumni from Dragon programmes volunteered by distributing anti-epidemic materials to low-income frontline workers and the disadvantaged. In addition, the Foundation collaborated with the Hong Kong Housing Society

